



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation

Community Gardener 101

Listed below are basic gardener responsibilities*, helpful hints, and gardener etiquette to enhance your experience as a community gardener. Following these practices keeps the community gardens looking good and functioning well.

** The contract you sign when you rent your plot details the complete terms of the agreement between the Community Gardening Program (CGP) and you, the gardener. Please be aware that you are responsible for adhering to all the contractual guidelines. The complete contract can be found by visiting www.bloomington.in.gov/communitygardening or obtained from the Parks and Recreation office.*

- **Gardens open April 15th (conditions permitting).** Please do not be tempted to begin gardening in Regular Season plots before this date as preparations may not be complete prior to this date. Season Extension plots may be gardened year-round. If you are not sure which type of plot you have, please ask the staff.
- **Please read the *Garden Beet* (e-newsletter).** It contains crucial seasonal information for gardeners as the season progresses and will improve your community gardening experience. If you do not receive the first *Garden Beet* in your email inbox within a few days of the gardens opening for the season, check your spam folder or contact CGP staff.
- **Close the gates upon entering and exiting - every time.** The fence only keeps critters out if the gates are closed.
- **Respect your plot boundaries,** marked with a stake in each corner. Place your plants, seeds, and hardscaping so that when plants are full-sized they remain within the boundaries of your plot.
- **Be a good neighbor.** Don't place tall plantings where they will shade neighboring plots.
- **Keep your plot and surrounding paths weeded.** All the time, all season long. Wood chips are provided (in the parking area) for the paths only- do not place them in your plot.
- **Dispose of your plant waste (weeds and other plant material) in the designated compost bins or remove it from the site.** Do not throw plant matter in the pathways or grass.
- **Remove all trash from the gardens.** Tomato cages and stakes can be left in the designated areas beside the tool shed.
- **Be kind, rewind the hose neatly when you are done with it.** Hose hangers are provided at all hose spigots. Please be sure not to drag the hose through another plot or leave it in a tangle.
- **Going on vacation?** Find a garden sitter; you are still responsible for your plot even when you're away.
- **Keep your pets at home.** Pets are prohibited from entering the garden.
- **Children must be supervised at all times.**
- **Do not harvest items from someone else's plot without permission,** even if you think the plot is neglected or abandoned.
- **The CGP depends on volunteers.** If you are interested in volunteering, there are many ways to help. Contact the CGP staff for details.
- **Communal tools are available for gardener use.** Check the Garden Hours schedule posted on all gates and the sheds.
- **Gardening advice is available from CGP staff.** Just ask! It is our goal to promote your best success as a gardener. Get in touch with us with the contacts below:

Joanna Sparks, Garden Supervisor, 812-327-9795, communitygardens@bloomington.in.gov
Robin Hobson, Program Manager, 812-349-3704, hobsonr@bloomington.in.gov